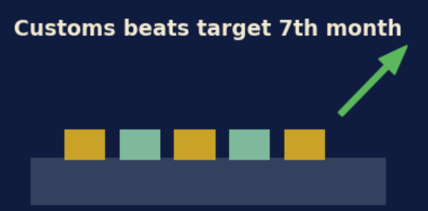
SRI LANKA WEEKLY

12 July – 18 July 2026

BY Shrishti Chauhan



Customs beats revenue target again

Services PMI expands to 58.5

US floats 12.5% tariff on exports

POLITICS

- Parliament works through the four-tier National Tariff Policy fallout, with the Deputy Minister reporting import-duty revenue up sharply year-on-year.
- The Exporters' Association AGM hears from officials on new forced-labour import regulations and calls for a clear implementation framework.
- The government advances IMF-programme revenue and governance reforms.

ECONOMY

- The rupee holds around 336.00-336.35/USD; bond yields drift marginally higher through the week.
- The ASPI trades sideways — 21,424 (July 14), 21,426 (July 15), 21,447 (July 16) — as banks lead turnover.
- Sri Lanka Customs collects 65% of its July target in the first 14 days, on course to beat monthly targets for a seventh straight month.
- The central bank's June Services PMI rises to 58.5 (from 56.9), led by financial, professional and insurance services.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- The US proposes a 12.5% tariff on Sri Lankan exports over imported-input and forced-labour concerns; exporters seek clarity.
- Foreign portfolio inflows into rupee securities extend a multi-week recovery.
- IMF-programme engagement continues around revenue and reserves targets.

INTERNAL SECURITY

- The Exporters' Association presses for a clear framework on new forced-labour import rules.
- Regulators sustain post-fraud oversight and digital-asset rule-making.

DEFENCE

- Post-Ditwah reconstruction remains a standing security-services priority; no major new operations reported.
- India defence-training cooperation under the USD 7 m programme continues in the background.

HEALTH

- Cost-of-living pressure from elevated fuel prices continues to weigh on households.
- Services-sector strength contrasts with strain in import-dependent essentials.

EDUCATION

- Skills and vocational themes stay central ahead of the October Economic and Investment Summit.
- Customs' digital scanning drive is framed as a governance and skills upgrade.

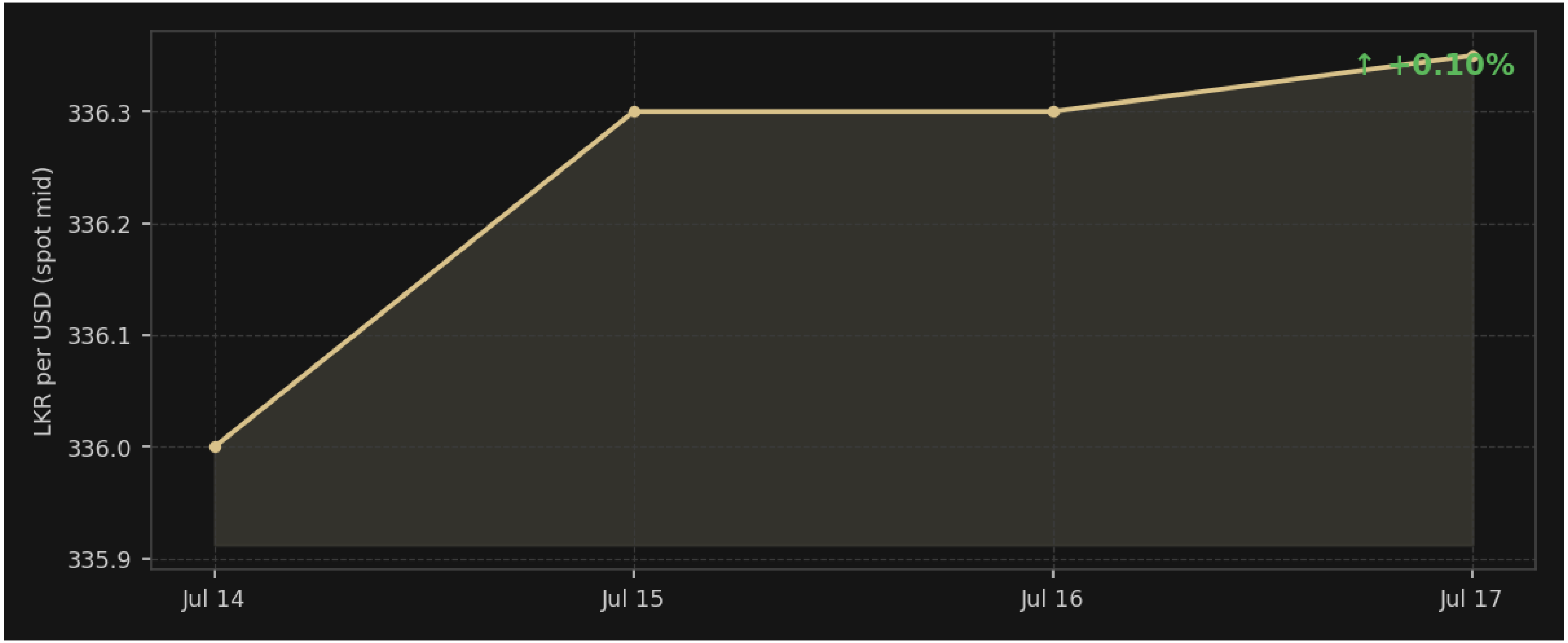
SOCIETY

- Dilmah Ceylon Tea announces a Rs 25/share dividend; corporate results season gathers pace.
- The Services PMI points to expanding new business, especially in financial services.
- Investor interest in Port City and special economic zones continues amid stability.
- Rain continues to disrupt Sri Lanka's white-ball tour of the West Indies.

Sr No	Date	Sector	News Headlines	Source
1	14 Jul 2026	Economy	ASPI closes down 0.50% to 21,424.71 as Treasury bill auction is announced	EconomyNext
2	15 Jul 2026	Economy	Rupee closes at 336.30/40 to the dollar; bond yields marginally higher	EconomyNext
3	15 Jul 2026	Economy	Sri Lanka Customs collects 65% of July's target in the first 14 days	EconomyNext
4	15 Jul 2026	Economy	ASPI edges up 1.44 points to 21,426.43 as banks lead turnover	EconomyNext
5	15 Jul 2026	Society	Dilmah Ceylon Tea proposes a Rs 25/share final dividend for FY24/25	EconomyNext
6	16 Jul 2026	Economy	ASPI rises 0.14% to 21,447.57; rupee steady at 336.30/45	EconomyNext
7	16 Jul 2026	Economy	June Services PMI rises to 58.5 on financial and professional services	EconomyNext
8	17 Jul 2026	Foreign Affairs	US proposes a 12.5% tariff on Sri Lankan exports over imported inputs	EconomyNext

Sr No	Date	Sector	News Headlines	Source
9	17 Jul 2026	Internal Security	Exporters' Association calls for a clear framework on forced-labour import rules	EconomyNext
10	17 Jul 2026	Economy	Exporters' Association AGM hears from officials on new import regulations	EconomyNext
11	17 Jul 2026	Politics	Deputy Minister reports import-duty revenue rose to Rs 39 bn under the new tariff regime	EconomyNext
12	17 Jul 2026	Economy	Customs accelerates container clearance with digital scanning to curb corruption	EconomyNext
13	18 Jul 2026	Foreign Affairs	Foreign portfolio inflows into rupee securities extend a multi-week recovery	EconomyNext
14	18 Jul 2026	Health	Elevated fuel prices keep cost-of-living pressure on households	EconomyNext
15	18 Jul 2026	Society	Services PMI points to expanding new business led by financial services	EconomyNext
16	18 Jul 2026	Society	Rain continues to disrupt Sri Lanka's white-ball tour of the West Indies	Ada Derana

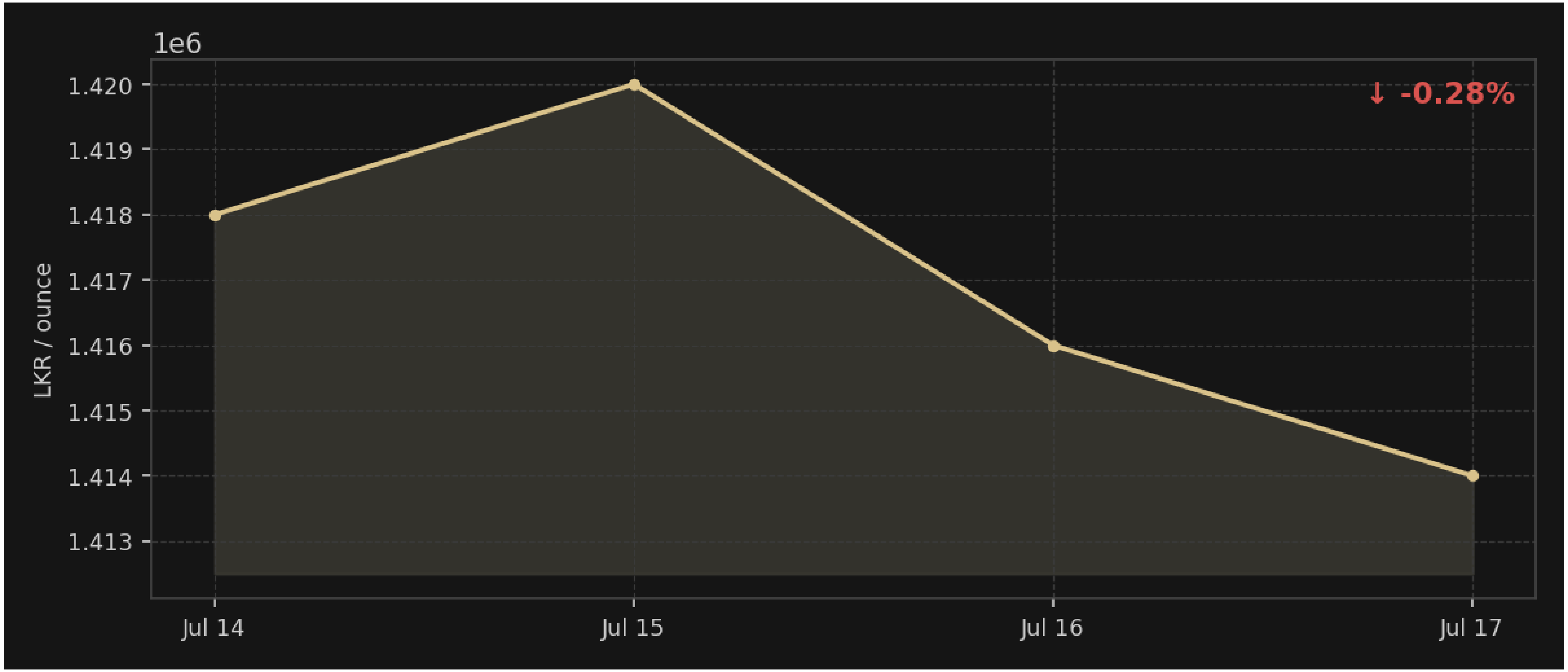
USD/LKR Exchange Rate (Spot Mid)



The rupee held in a tight 336.00-336.35/USD band through the week.

Indicative weekly series compiled from reported market data; interim points are approximations where official daily closes were unavailable.

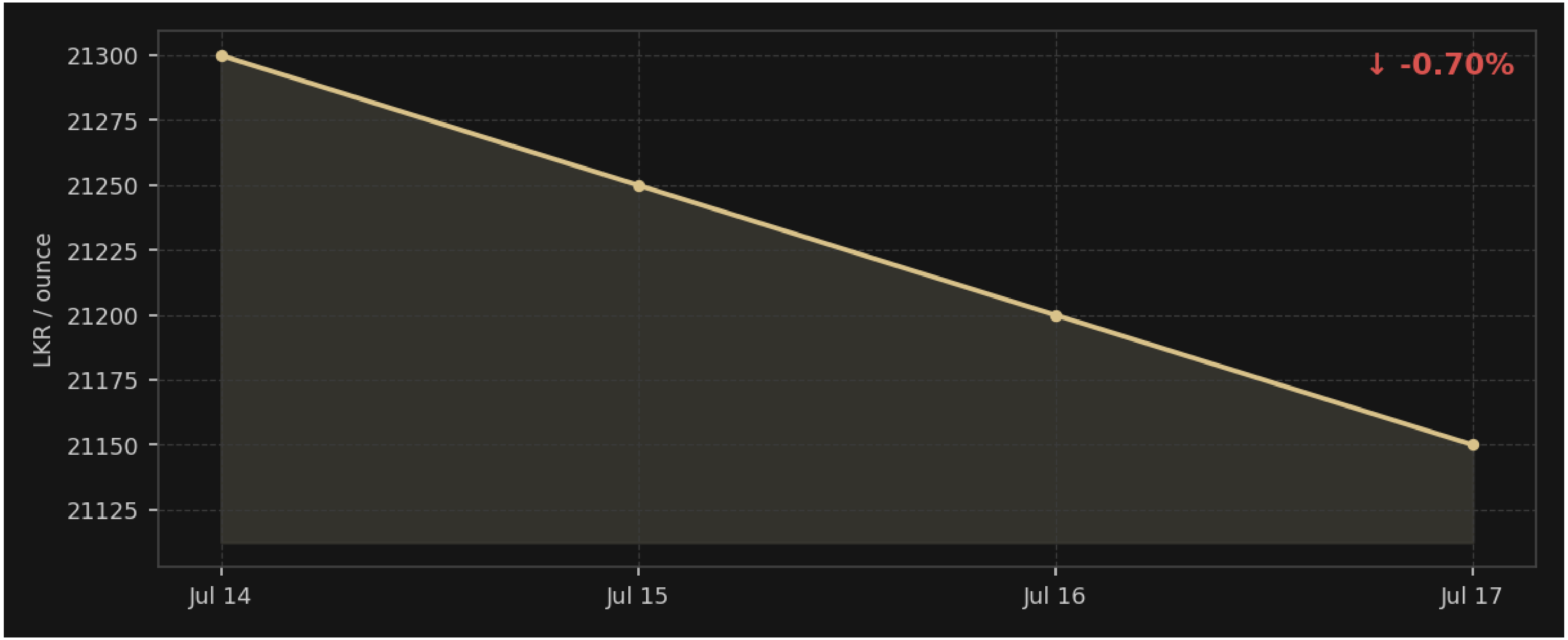
Gold Prices (in Sri Lankan Rupees/Ounce)



Rupee gold eased modestly with softer world prices.

Indicative weekly series compiled from reported market data; interim points are approximations where official daily closes were unavailable.

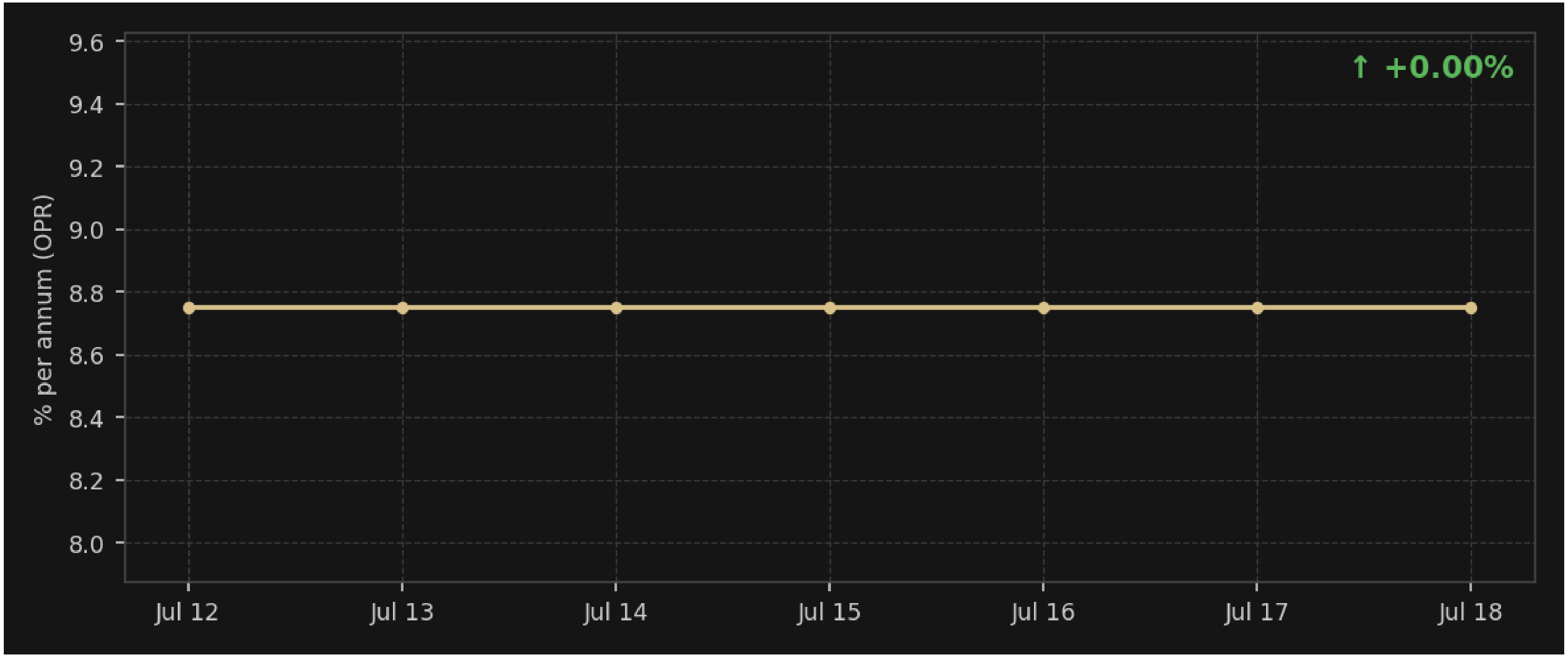
Silver Prices (in Sri Lankan Rupees/Ounce)



Silver slipped in rupee terms, tracking global prices.

Indicative weekly series compiled from reported market data; interim points are approximations where official daily closes were unavailable.

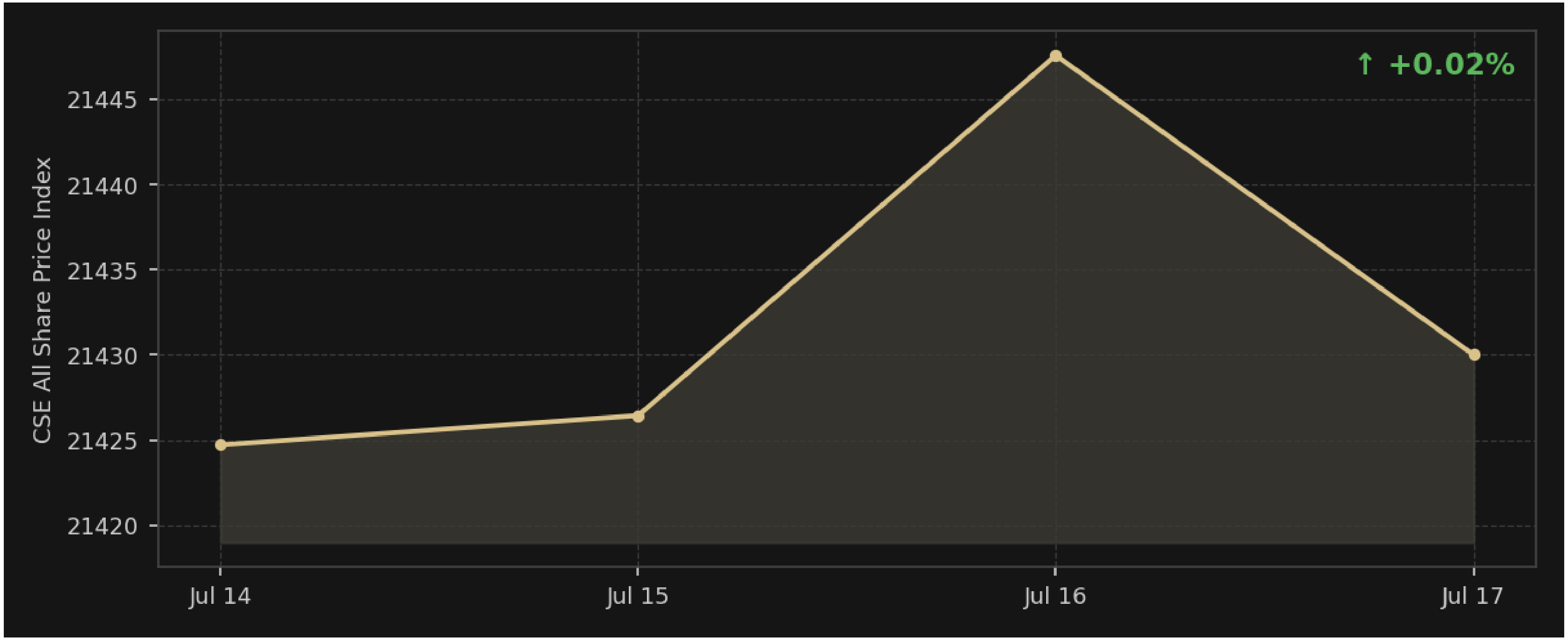
Central Bank of Sri Lanka — Overnight Policy Rate



The OPR held at 8.75% all week.

Indicative weekly series compiled from reported market data; interim points are approximations where official daily closes were unavailable.

CSE All Share Price Index (ASPI)



The ASPI traded sideways around 21,424-21,447 as banks led turnover.

Indicative weekly series compiled from reported market data; interim points are approximations where official daily closes were unavailable.